

WYRE PIDDLER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council duly convened and held in The Village Hall, Wyre Piddle on **Thursday 30th January, 2014** commencing at 7.30 pm

Present Councillors: - D Creed- Miles Naraine (Chairman)
M Oakley
G Smout
N Wood

In attendance: - County Councillor Liz Tucker
D Taverner – Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

Apologies recorded: - R Merchant and J Parsons

1/1/14 Declarations of Interest

a) Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests: There were none

b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature: There were none

c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature: There were none .

2/1/14 To Consider Written Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)

A dispensation had been granted by the monitoring officer at Wychavon District Council to allow Members to participate in the debate, under agenda item 10 b, relating to the setting of the 2014/15 precept and the related Council Tax Rate at Band D. As well as repealing the legislation relating to the former Code of Conduct, the Localism Act 2011 also repealed the general dispensation permitting any councillor with an interest to take part in meetings relating to setting their Council's precept. Therefore Parish Councillors living in the parish must, as council tax payers, declare a pecuniary interest in the item and would not have been able to discuss or vote on the precept, unless such a dispensation had been granted.

3/1/14 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28th November, 2013

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th November 2013, having been previously circulated, were approved as correct record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman

4/1/14 Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising from the approved minutes.

5/1/14 Written Questions received

Question 1 from Mr G Robinson

Concerning progress with the Eastern Bridge Barrier Project

"The 'supposed' Eastern Bridge and its closure to ALL traffic except buses, emergency vehicles and buses. I have gone on the record many times but nothing happens!!! Yes, the barriers are now in place BUT not working some 3 weeks later - WHY??? This is not good enough and I intend, with the full analysis from you, to explore the 'gross incompetence' by the relevant party (ies). Incidentally, I still await a reply from Mrs Tucker concerning

*the 'litter' left by the contractors who installed the barriers - why??
Thanks for this analysis"*

Parish Council's Answer to Question 1

The problems with the eastern Bridge have been well documented over the years since the bridge was closed to unauthorised traffic. In an attempt to prevent such traffic unlawfully and dangerously crossing the bridge barriers have recently been installed by Worcestershire County Council.

Initial teething problems have been experienced, in particular local bus companies had not followed the correct procedure and fitted their busses with the tags that operate the barriers and the lights. WPPC believe the local bus companies have now fitted tags to the busses so that the lights and barriers should operate when approached by authorised busses.

The barrier at the eastern end of the bridge has been damaged and is currently non operational, the western barrier continues to operate and is preventing unauthorised use of the bridge. It is unclear how the eastern barrier was damaged but it is believed it was accidental, if careless damage rather than malicious damage. New replacement parts for the eastern barrier have been ordered by the County Council.

Wyre Piddle Parish Council are dismayed at how long this solution to the unlawful use of the bridge has taken to implement but are relieved that action has now been taken by the County Council. Wyre Piddle Parish Council are of the view that if Police enforcement had taken place when the bridge was originally closed to unauthorised traffic this sorry saga of events should and could have been prevented. This would have saved an awful lot of time and public money.

The matter of enforcement of traffic regulations at the eastern bridge will again be raised at the next PACT meeting scheduled for the middle of February. If no satisfactory answers are forthcoming the Parish Council will be contacting the Police and Crime Commissioner seeking an explanation.

As with all public works the Council will expect that the bridge will be left in a clean and tidy state after the repairs to the barrier have been completed.

Question 2 from Mr G Robinson

2. Concerning flooding near to the Piddle Brook Bridge

"The floods on Worcester Road by Piddle Brook bridge!!! Yes, Wendy responded quickly to my email addressed to Roy Fullee and I am sure 'action' will take place soon. However, much as in 1) above, I want the full analysis from you, to explore more 'gross incompetence' by 'whoever' is responsible, going back to when this was first reported (5, 6 or 7 years?). We are so lucky so far, that accidents have not happened AND it is not good enough to hear the excuse - "it is the camber on the road"

Parish Council's Answer to Question 2

The problems with the drain on the Worcester Road near the Piddle Brook Bridge have been reported to the County Council on many occasions during the past few years, most recently via the Worcestershire Hub on 26th December. The problem was also specifically pointed out to Mr Fullee from County Highways during an inspection of the roads and footpaths of the Village which was made with the Parish Clerk in late 2011

This is a long standing issue that the Parish Council is very much aware of but we are very much at the mercy of the County Council over this

matter. It has been widely publicised that the County Council has had to significantly cut back its budget and one of the victims of this has been the Highways budget. The Worcester road by the bridge is effectively a no through road and as such will be a very low priority when it comes to allocating scarce resources. It is noted that worse issues of flooding affect Station Road in Pershore and it is suggested that this poses more of a danger to residents of Wyre Piddle than the standing water by the Piddle Brook Bridge.

Wyre Piddle Parish Council will continue to push Worcestershire County Council to fix the problem with the drain by the bridge but realistically can set no date by which this work will be done.

Highways issues can be reported and followed up via the Worcestershire hub <mailto:worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk>

6/1/14 Report of County Councillor Liz Tucker

Bus Consultation

The consultation on the bus subsidy removal closed on Friday 17th January. At the close over 8500 completed surveys had been received along with around 10 petitions from across the county. These will now be analyzed a report will be drawn up before a decision is made as part of the budget process

County Council Budget Proposals

Worcestershire County Council is consulting on the draft budget for next financial year 2014/15. The draft budget brings together a number of financial related matters, including the results of the Council's strategic financial planning, the detailed budget preparation work taking account of the latest inflation and demographic pressures, the overall funding position from Central Government and finally the overall impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan .The draft budget also proposes to raise the Council Tax Precept by 1.94% in order to raise approximately £4 million of funding that will be available year on year to support emerging pressures of approximately £4 million within Children's Services, particularly with reference to the rising number of Looked After Children.

The medium term savings and efficiencies requirement for the Council is now approximately £103 million through to the end of the 2017/18 financial year. Over the medium term to the end of 2016/17 the Council has identified savings and efficiencies of approximately £61 million. The Council intends to develop plans to address the shortfall of £17 million to the end of 2016/17 in 2014 and will consider the savings and efficiencies required in 2017/18 following the approval of the budget by Full Council in February 2014.

Consultation commenced in October 2013 on the Council's current plans for savings and efficiencies over the medium term. This included public road shows and consultation events where the council put forward its budget proposals and listened to concerns from parishes

The draft budget forms part of that consultation and the results of all the Council's consultation and engagement will then be presented to Cabinet and Full Council in February 2014 where the final decisions will be made.

7/1/14 Presentation from Mr Steven Bullen on Cycle Initiatives within the Vale of Evesham

Mr Bullen gave a presentation on cycling initiatives in the Vale with particular emphasis on the possibility of researching how Wyre Piddle could be connected to Evesham with a cycle-friendly route.

He outlined work being undertaken by the Honeybourne Bicycle Users Group (H-BUG) who were developing a structure of cycling activities that encourage individuals to cycle regularly and to set themselves easy-to-achieve personal goals to aspire to, it was expected that cycling would enhance community spirit and lead to a lifelong enjoyment of cycling.

The objectives of the group were:-

- 1 – To provide an environment where children (and adults) can learn to ride a cycle in traffic-free conditions.
This can be achieved by creating an all-weather path on the Sport Honeybourne field.
- 2 – To introduce families (and individuals) to safe on-road cycling.
This is being achieved through short rides (from 1 to 6 miles) in controlled conditions on quiet lanes.
- 3 – To extend the short rides to roads with more traffic and potential traffic hazards.
This is being achieved through short rides (1 to 6 miles) on local roads with multiple potential hazards.
- 4 – To encourage riders to aspire to ride greater distances in incremental steps.
The "Aspire" programme leads and encourages riders to move outside of their comfort zone by initially riding 10 miles, then 20, then 30, then 40, then 50.
- 5 – To encourage all riders to experience and enjoy the fun of competition.
The Sport Honeybourne field provides the opportunity to ride safely on grass. Individuals will be encouraged to cycle a given distance at their own pace, setting a personal best (PB); and then to try, over time, to improve their PB by one second at a time.
With PBs established, we can then seed riders and all enjoy pursuit rides.
- 6 – To channel talented riders to the best available groups/individuals that will encourage and develop this talent.
H-BUG is closely connected to British Cycling, Evesham Wheelers and other cycling organisations.
- 7 – To ensure that all riders are aware of the dangers of sharing road space.
Ride leaders will always have safety as their first priority, and will impart their knowledge and reasoning to the group at every opportunity.
- 8 – To actively discourage irresponsible behaviour.
Ride leaders will expect riders to listen, and respond to, any advice given that may affect the safety of themselves or others.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bullen for his very informative presentation and wished him well in the fulfilment of the objectives of the group.

8/1/14 Planning: applications and decision notices

(a) Applications for consideration (click on the web links for details)

[14/00032](#) - The Park, Wyre Hill

Change of use of land (from agricultural) to yard for tree surgery business and erection of portal frame building (part retrospective)

Members raised no objections to this application noting that the property was located in the parish of Pinvin.

[13/02462](#) - Sandfields Farms Limited, Wyre Piddle Bypass,

The siting of seasonal workers accommodation and recreation room permanently in breach of condition 4 of planning permission W/12/02082/CU

The application site is located in the Parish of Hill and Moor but will have a significant impact on Wyre Piddle.

WPPC was shocked when permission was granted for the siting of 35 caravans at Sandfields Farm against Officers advice and this application only serves to highlight the damage done by that decision to the amenity and social cohesion of the area.

What the previous application actually gave permission for was for 175 workers engaged in Industrial Work to be housed in caravans in a totally unsuitable and unsustainable location.

Although WPPC has a good working relationship with the applicant, it has to Object in the strongest terms to this application as Condition 4 was imposed for legitimate planning reasons that have not changed and its removal would set a precedent for future applications on other sites.

WPPC would also take issue with the statement from the agents that the development has not had a material adverse impact on the visual amenities of the locality. This development is a blot on the landscape that should never have been allowed to happen.

WPPC will continue to work with the applicant to mitigate the social impact this development has had on the local community but relies on WDC to not compound the error made in originally granting permission, by refusing this application for removal of Condition 4

[13/02604](#) -Land off, Wyre Road, Pershore

Crown House Developments

Outline application for the erection of 70 dwellings

Wyre Piddle Parish Council strongly objects to this application.

The application site is for outline planning for 70 dwellings and relates to a parcel of land identified in the recently submitted SWDP for potential future residential development.

In view of the number of applications for residential development and employment use already submitted or about to be submitted in the local area, Wyre Piddle Parish Council shares the view that all such applications and proposals should be viewed together.

The cumulative impact of all the developments affecting the northern part of Pershore Town particularly on Station Road and Wyre Road should be assessed at the same time.

The overall assessment of the cumulative impact of such developments should principally centre upon the impact on Highways and transportation – the affect on Station Road and the junctions with High Street/Worcester Road, the Pinvin Crossroads and the Wyre Road itself.

There is an urgent need for the Northern Link Road to be constructed and financial contributions from each developer towards the Pershore transport package should be secured.

The current road and services infrastructure is currently totally insufficient to support the impact of these proposals.

(b) To note any Planning Decision notices received from Wychavon District Council

13/02115 -Land Adjacent, 4 Avon Bank Cottages, Main Road

Further extension of time to approved application W/10/01958 together with amendments to layout and elevations

Application approved 13th December, 2013

13/02365- Land Adjacent, Peace Avon, Main Road,

Proposed detached dwelling on Greenfield site with: - detached garage retaining walls and undercroft tiered decking new highway vehicular entrance and driveway riverbank mooring with sheet piling landscaping and paths

Application approved 16th January, 2014

12/02303- Staddlestones, Main Road,

Erection of dormer bungalow

Appeal against planning refusal dismissed 27th January

9/1/14 Community events and Village games update

Carrie Oakley had submitted a comprehensive update report on Community events which Is reproduced below as follows:

VILLAGE GAMES UPDATE 30 January 2014

We attended the Wychavon Sport AGM on Monday 27 January which was, in general, a positive and upbeat meeting.

In the role of Wyre Piddle Parish Organiser I will soon be encouraging Captains, old and new, to lead us into the 15 events we intend to enter later in the year. I am sure our relatively small Parish will, once again, aim high and raise the bar as the games continue to develop bonds and friendships and enhance our community spirit.

PIDDLE POST UPDATE 30 January 2014

The 63rd edition has been completed and after all these years, we've finally gone and changed the format!!! There seemed to be so much to say this month that 2 pages have been dedicated to text, with now a single page for dates etc... We can mix and match the format depending upon how much there is to talk about and we remain keen to publicise events, in a joined up way, as well as keeping people up to date with Parish news like the Bridge, the Pub and planning matters etc... ..

JOINED UP ENTERTAINMENTS UPDATE 30 January 2014

We are due to have a meeting in February, but we have not yet made a date, where we will be discussing forthcoming events such as The Easter Bonnet Parade on Easter Monday (21 April) and the Summer Fete (Saturday 28 June). As previously stated, all involved wish to follow last year's format for the Fete as it worked really well.

Going back to events before Christmas the Village Hall Committee fundraiser 'Wyre Piddle Picture Show' was very well attended and this kept the JUE team busy in the kitchen preparing and serving Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

The Children's Christmas Party was, once again, very well attended. DJ Chris keeps them entertained and Father Christmas brings them presents, so it's a 'win.win'...

Christmas Carols on the Village Green this year raised just over £190 in an hour for the County Air Ambulance. Thanks to everyone for putting so many pennies in the bucket!

Every year a slick team goes into action and they all need thanking; so thanks to:

Pershore Brass Band who brave the weather and play for us every year
Graeme and Doum Dim at The Hotel for donating the dozen bottles of red required for the essential Mulled Wine

Miles Taylor for providing lights and the gas ring to keep the mulled wine hot; and
Robbo for providing the "Pointy Tent".

It's a great team effort and it has been the same team every year. Big thanks to one and all.

Thanks were again given to Carrie both for her report and for all of the hard work she has continued to undertake and organise on behalf of the local community.

10/1/14 (a) Finance – to approve payment of accounts

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

Chq No	Payee	For	£
907076	D Taverner	Clerk Salary and expenses December	264.87
907077	HMRC	PAYE Income Tax and Nat ins - December Qtr	187.60
907078	D Taverner	Clerk Salary and expenses January	265.07
907079	G Robinson	Lengthsman Scheme - Dec/ Jan	256.96
901080	Wescotec Ltd	VAS sign bracket	96.00
901081	Glasdon UK	Litter Bin - Smith Meadow	270.69
901082	n Power	Street lighting	141.01

(b) 2014/15 Parish Precept

The Clerk presented a paper setting out the previously agreed net income and expenditure budget for 2014/15. Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to set the 2014/15 parish precept at a level of £11,250 - an increase of 1.98% over 2013/14 figure.

11/1/14 New Homes Bonus

Cllr Oakley led a general discussion concerning the availability of funding for qualifying Parish Council projects from the New Homes Bonus fund

The New Homes Bonus is a national initiative designed to ensure that the economic benefits of housing growth are returned to the councils and communities where that growth takes place. For every new home built and occupied in Wychavon, the government gives the District Council a New Homes Bonus grant, each year, for six years.

Wychavon have allocated up to 40% of the bonus for reinvestment in local communities in the District where the development that has generated it has taken place. Parish and town councils have been invited to submit proposals for spending New Homes Bonus allocations in their own local areas

Wyre Piddle has been given an annual allocation of £1,592 effective from 1st April, 2013 which is payable annually over a 6 year period. A further annual allocation of £983 becomes payable with effect from 1st April, 2014. The Parish can choose what to spend its New Homes Bonus on as long as the proposed spend delivers added, ongoing value to the local community

It was agreed that a form would be delivered to all local residents asking for their feedback on how they would like to see the available New Homes Bonus money spent. Once the returns were collated the Parish Council would then consider which projects could be best supported by the funding available.

12/1/14 Maintenance of Open Spaces:

(a) Smith's Meadow

The new litter bin had been delivered and was due to be installed in Smiths Meadow. It had been suggested that a Dummy CCTV Camera should be sited in the Meadow to deter vandalism but as it was felt that such a measure would have a limited impact the Council decided not to pursue the project.

(b) Poplar Avenue Play area

Playdale Ltd had provided design details for the refurbishment of the Children's Play Area and further comparable quotations were being sought. There would be a consultation event for residents before a final scheme design was selected.

(c) Lengthsman projects –Mr G Robinson

Following further reports of blocked ditches Wychavon Distinct Council had taken enforcement action against riparian landowners where appropriate.

M Robinson had left the meeting earlier and no further lengthsman reports were received

(d) Contracts review

The Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee would be meeting to review the lengthsman scheme contract and the annual review of the performance of the Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance officer

13/1/14 The date of next Parish Council meeting was agreed as **Thursday 27th March, 2014**

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm

Signed
Chairman - 27th March, 2014